

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 EB-11

NIC-01 AID-20 ACDA-19 OPR-02 SIL-01 LAB-06 RSR-01

/143 W

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P 291840 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2646

INFO USCINCSO

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USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PINT, AR

SUBJECT: GOVERNMENT VERSUS EXTREMISTS: THE SCREWS ARE TIGHTENED

REF: BA-3973, 4175, 4356, 4512, 4442, 4558

1. SUMMARY: IN THE WAKE OF THE EZEIZAZO AND PERON'S SPEECH ON JUNE 21, THE GOVERNMENT, RATHER THAN THE PERONIST MOVEMENT, HAS TAKEN ON RESPONSIBILITY FOR FIGHTING EXTREMISM. CAMPORA IS CARRYING OUT PLEDGE TO END ILLEGAL OCCUPATIONS, CONTROL CARRYING OF FIREARMS, AND RESTORE ORDER. ERP AND DAP, ON OTHER HAND, HAVE HELD PRESS CONFERENCES AT WHICH THE FORMER SEVERELY CRITICIZED AND WARNED THE GOVERNMENT, AND THE LATTER REAFFIRMED ITS OBJECTIVE OF CONSTRUCTING SOCIALIST COUNTRY THROUGH THE TAKING OF POWER BY THE WORKING CLASS AND THE " PERONIST PUBLIC." WHILE TERRORIST GROUPS ARE PROFILING THEMSELVES MORE DISTINCTLY, THEY ARE ALSO FURTHER ISOLATING THEMSELVES POLITICALLY FROM THE PUBLIC. END SUMMARY.

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2. PRESIDENT CAMPORA'S SPEECH ON JUNE 25, FOLLOWING SOON AFTER THE TRAGIC EVENTS AT EZEIZA ON JUNE 20 AND PERON'S NATIONAL UNITY SPEECH THE DAY AFTER, FIRMLY OUTLINED THE GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION TO CONTROL ILLEGAL ACTS. THIS IS A TURNABOUT FROM THE GOVERNMENT'S ALMOST NONEXISTENT REACTION TO THE DISORDERS PRECEDING PERON'S RETURN AND ITS VIRTUAL ABDICATION OF RESPONSIBILITY TO THE PERONIST MOVEMENT WITH RESPECT TO HANDLING THE TERRORIST PROBLEM. SECURITY FORCES ARE NOW CARRYING OUT INSTRUCTIONS TO END ILLEGAL OCCUPATIONS WITHIN 48 HOURS AND TO CLAMP DOWN ON PEOPLE CARRYING FIREARMS AND EXPLOSIVES. MINISTRI RIGHI ISSUED A WARNING ON JUNE 27 AGAINST ARMED GROUPS AND CALLED ON PUBLIC TO INFORM POLICE OF ANY ATTEMPT AT PUBLIC INTIMIDATION OR VIOLENCE. THE CGT ALSO ANNOUNCED ITS COMPLETE SUPPORT FOR THE GOVERNMENT AND WARNED "THOSE WHO INTEND TO SERVE OTHER INTERESTS, CERTAIN CIRCLES OR SELF-STYLED CAUDILLOS WHO ARE PERONIST IN NAME ONLY," SAYING THAT THE MAINTENANCE OF ORDER "IS AN UNAVOIDABLE DUTY AND THAT THERE IS NO ROOM FOR ANARCHY OR INTOLERANCE IN THE TASK OF RECONSTRUCTION AND LIBERATION." EVEN THE MONTONEROS ENTERED THE GOVERNMENT'S ACT WITH A JUNE 27 COMMUNIQUE ADDRESSED TO "PUBLIC OPINION AND PARA-MILITARY GROUPS" WHICH DECLARED THAT "THE MOMENT HAS ARRIVED TO LAY DOWN ARMS IN ORDER TO BEGIN THE TASK OF RECONSTRUCTION NEEDED BY THE NATION."

3. THE ERP AND THE FAP CONDUCTED PRESS CONFERENCES JUNE 27 WHICH HAD THE EFFECT OF THROWING DOWN THE GAUNTLET TO THE GOVERNMENT. THE ERP, WHOSE CONFERENCE WAS TELEVISED, DELIVERED A BROADSIDE, SAYING THAT THE GOVERNMENT "IS PLACING ITSELF CLEARLY ON THE SIDE OF EXPLOITERS, THE ENEMIES OF THE PEOPLE AND THE COUNTRY," AND THAT IT WAS "STARTING TO ORGANIZE BLOODY REPRESSION OF THE PEOPLE." REPRESENTED BY MARIO ROBERTO SANTUCHO AND BENITO URTEAGA, THE ERP DECLARED THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S ACTIONS TO END OCCUPATIONS AND CONTROL FIREARMS PLACED IT "ONE STEP AWAY FROM REVOLUTIONARY ILLEGALITY." THE ERP ALSO STATED THAT THE EZEIZAZO HAD BEEN ORGANIZED FROM THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL WELFARE WHICH HAD BEEN CONVERTED INTO "THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE CIA." SANTUCHO WARNED THAT IF THE GOVERNMENT CARRIED OUT ITS "REPRESSION" OF THE PEOPLE IT WOULD BE ATTACKED BY THE ERP AS AN ENEMY. WHILE NOT ATTACKING PERON DIRECTLY, THE ERP NOTED THAT HE WAS THE LEADER OF A MOVEMENT "WITH MULTIPLE CONTRADICTIONS," AND THAT HIS SPEECH OF JUNE 21 "WAS NOT WHAT THE PEOPLE WERE HOPING FOR." NOTE: THE GOVERNMENT ON JUNE 28 SANCTIONED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE TV STATIONS TELEVISIONING THE CONFERENCE, SUPPLYING LAWS PROMULGATED BY THE LANUSSE GOVERNMENT WHICH PROHIBIT BROADCASTS AFFECTING PUBLIC SECURITY AND THE MORAL LIFE OF SOCIETY. THE SANCTIONS MIGHT INCLUDE LARGE FINES AND A 24-HOUR SUSPENSION.

4. THE FAP PRESS CONFERENCE, ATTENDED BY MEMBERS OF ITS NATIONAL

LEADERSHIP, WAS NOT NEARLY AS BOMBASTIC AS THAT OF ERP BUT NONE-
THELESS INDICATED THE FAP WAS MOVING IN A DIRECTION OPPOSED TO
THAT OF THE GOVERNMENT. THE FAP SAID IT WAS NOT ENOUGH TO DEPOSIT
CON
FIDENCE

IN " OUR LEADER," AND THAT THIS CONFIDENCE
MUST BE CONVERTED INTO AN ORGANIZATION CAPABLE OF CONFRONTING
THE ENEMY AND DEFEATING HIM. THE FAP DECLARED ITS OBJECTIVE OF
CONSTRUCTING A " SOCIALIST COUNTRY THROUGH THE TAKING OF
POWER BY THE WORKING CLASS AND THE PERONIST PUBLIC." TO THIS
END THE FAP CALLED FOR THE CREATION OF " PERONIST MILITAS"
THROUGH THE UNITING OF GRASS- ROOTS ORGANIZATIONS WITH
" THE ARMED ORGANIZATIONS" TO INITIATE THE " MARCH TOWARD POWER
OF THE ARMY OF THE WORKING CLASS AND THE PERONIST PUBLIC." IT
DEFINED SOCIALISM AS THE " ELIMINATION OF ALL TYPES OF EXPLOITA-
TION AND THE DESTRUCTION OF THE CAPITALIST SOCIETY." THE FAP
SAID IT WOULD CONTINUE FOLLOWING THE GOVERNMENT ONLY IF IT WAS
CONSISTENT WITH THE PRINCIPLES OF NATIONAL LIBERATION AND WERE
TO TRANSFER " STEP BY STEP POWER TO THE WORKERS." IT ADDED THAT
PERON' S SPEECH OF JUNE 21 " DID NOT RESPOND TO THE EXPECTATIONS
OF THE WORKERS," AND THAT " THE BUREAUCRACY" IMPEDED PERON' S
CONTACT WITH HIS PEOPLE. DURING THE CONFERENCE, THE FAP
ENUMERATED SEVEN " OPERATIONS" THEY HAD UNDERTAKEN IN THE PAST,
INCLUDING THE ASSASSINATION OF SMATA SEC GEN KLOOSTERMAN.

5. COMMENT: THE STERNER ACTIONS OF THE CAMPORA GOVERNMENT TO
CONTROL DISORDERS COMBINED WITH THE CLEARER INDICATIONS OF
TERRORIST POSITIONS PRESAGE AN INCREASE IN TENSION BETWEEN THE
TWO. BOTH SIDES ARE NOW PUTTING ON PRESSURE, DELIMITING
EVERMORE CLEARLY THE BOUNDARIES OF ACCEPTABLE ACTIVITIES.
HOWEVER, THE GOVERNMENT IS ALSO TRYING TO COPE WITH A WAVE OF
KIDNAPPINGS AND THREATS, MANY OF WHICH ARE NOT TERRORIST
INSPIRED, AND THUS MUST TAKE CONCRETE ACTION TO RESTORE ORDER
AND PUBLIC CONFIDENCE: WORDS ARE NO LONGER SUFFICIENT. IN THIS
REGARD THE APPLICATION OF SANCTIONS TO THE TV STATIONS BROAD-
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CASTING THE ERP PRESS CONFERENCE IS MOST INTERESTING, INDICATING
AS IT DOES THE CAMPORA GOVERNMENT' S READINESS, WHEN IT SUITS ITS
PURPOSES, TO USE LEGISLATION WHICH IT HAS PREVIOUSLY LABELED
" REPRESSIVE." IT ALSO DECREASES SOMEWHAT THE CREDIBILITY OF THE
GOVERNMENT' S STATEMENTS THAT THERE WILL BE NO CENSORSHIP IN
ARGENTINA.
LODGE

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 JUN 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: kelleyw0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BUENOS04650
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: BUENOS AIRES
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730633/aaaajwal.tel
Line Count: 168
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 BUENOS AIRES 04650
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kelleyw0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 OCT 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22-Oct-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <30-Oct-2001 by kelleyw0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 980309
Subject: GOVERNMENT VERSUS EXTREMISTS: THE SCREWS ARE TIGHTENED
TAGS: PINT, AR
To: ARA
SECSTATE WASHDC
USCINCSO
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005